

FEDERAL WOMAN'S AWARD

News Release

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ADVANCE FOR WEDNESDAY MORNING NEWSPAPERS, FEBRUARY 20
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A cancer researcher, speech pathologist, library automation expert, international lawyer, doctor, and foreign service officer will be the recipients of the prestigious Federal Woman's Award for 1974. The six winners, selected from among over 150 Federal career women nominated by their employing agencies, were announced today by Civil Service Commission Vice Chairman Jayne B. Spain, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Woman's Award.

The six winners, who will receive their awards at the 14th Annual Federal Woman's Award Banquet on March 5 at the Shoreham Hotel, are:

Mrs. Henriette D. Avram, Chief, MARC Development Office,
Library of Congress.

Miss Edna A. Boorady, Regional Legal Adviser, Agency for
International Development.

Dr. Roselyn Payne Epps, M.D., Chief, Division of Maternal
and Child Health, Community Health and Hospitals Administration,
Department of Human Resources, Government of the District of
Columbia.

Dr. Brigid Gray Leventhal, M.D., Head, Chemo-immunotherapy Section, Pediatric Oncology Branch, Medical Oncology Area, Division of Cancer Treatment, National Cancer Institute.

Mrs. Gladys P. Rogers, Special Assistant for Women's Affairs to the Deputy Under Secretary for Management, Department of State.

Dr. Madge Skelly, Ph.D., Chief, Audiology and Speech Pathology Service, Veterans Administration Hospital, St. Louis, Mo., Veterans Administration.

The Federal Woman's Award is Government-wide in scope, and is unique in that it is the only award program in the Federal Government that is exclusively for women. The winners are judged for their contributions to the Federal Government, based upon specific accomplishments that have made, or are making, an important contribution to administrative, social, scientific, or technical progress in the work of a Federal agency. Personal qualities of leadership, or sustained individual performance, integrity, honesty, and judgment are also required.

The Federal Woman's Award was founded in 1960, and the first awards were presented in the spring of 1961. The award program is administered by a Board of Trustees of 12 members located in Washington, D.C. The Board is an independent body having no official connection with the Government. As a public service, Woodward and Lothrop, Inc., of Washington, D.C., defrays all expenses connected with the Federal Woman's Award.

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Note to Editors--

Biographical and career data on each of the Award winners and the names of the five judges for 1974 and the Trustees of the Federal Woman's Award are attached.

Henriette D. Avram is an information systems analyst who is Chief of the MARC Development Office of the Library of Congress. Her duties include directing all of the research and development projects necessary for automation of the technical process of the Library's bibliographic services.

Mrs. Avram came to the Library of Congress in 1965 after 12 years of experience as a computer systems analyst. In eight years she has become the single most influential person in the field of library automation, both nationally and internationally. She developed a standard format for the interchange of bibliographic records in machine-readable form -- called the MARC (Machine-Readable Cataloging) format -- which has been endorsed by the American Library Association and other organizations. This format has become an international standard, which will make possible worldwide sharing of bibliographic information in an automated mode, and has made the Library of Congress the acknowledged leader in library automation and standardization efforts.

Mrs. Avram's leadership abilities are demonstrated by her chairmanship of the International Federation of Library Associations' Working Party on Content Designators, and other committees. She is a member of the Board of Editors of the Journal of Library Automation, and the only recipient ever of the Margaret Mann Citation in Cataloging and Classification who was not a librarian.

Her accomplishments include a large number of reports written and speeches and lectures given, especially the series of MARC Institutes that she has proposed, developed, and attended.

Mrs. Avram was born in New York City and attended Hunter College and George Washington University. She lives in Silver Spring, Md., and is married to Herbert Avram, and they have three children: Lloyd, 29, Marcie, 27, and Jay, 18.

Edna A. Boorady is an attorney who is Regional Legal Adviser in Southeast Asia for the Agency for International Development. Since 1967 she has been providing legal advice and assistance in the implementation of AID's programs -- primarily in Thailand, but also for AID missions in Laos, Cambodia, the Philippines, and Indonesia, and for AID's Regional Development Programs for Southeast Asia. Her duties include representation of U.S. Government interests in litigation and settlement of claims and disputes arising out of AID programs, some of which are complex problems involving international economic, financial, and political aspects.

Miss Boorady began her Federal career in June 1944, when she went to work as a Special Assistant and Principal Aide to the Chief of Mission to the United Nations Rehabilitation and Relief Administration's Mission in Albania.

After graduating from Fordham University magna cum laude in 1951 and earning her law degree from Cornell Law School in 1954, Miss Boorady went to work in the Office of the General Counsel for AID. She was named Assistant General Counsel for Management and Administration in 1961.

She was a leading force in the creation of AID and in the development of legislation and procedures to insure the continuity of operations previously conducted by the International Cooperation Administration and the Development Loan Fund.

Miss Boorady's experience in AID legal matters has ranged widely over the activities of the agency, starting with the so-called "housekeeping functions" such as personnel, security, management planning, and administrative services. During her association with AID, she has drafted and substantiated legislative changes needed for the administration of AID's economic development programs, provided legal advice and assistance to the senior managers of the multi-billion-dollar program, and worked closely in the development and monitoring of the agency's multilateral and bilateral agreements.

In 1972 Miss Boorady was promoted to the rank of Foreign Service Reserve Officer, Class 1, the highest career rank in the AID system. Other honors include being the AID nominee for the Tom Clark Award in 1962, recipient of the AID Meritorious Service Citation in 1963, and nominee for AID Woman of the Year in 1969.

She was born in Dunkirk, N.Y.

Roselyn Payne Epps, M.D., is a doctor with the Department of Human Resources of the District of Columbia Government. She has been Chief of the Division of Maternal and Child Health since 1971, having served before in the position of Director of the Clinic for Retarded Children; Chief, Infant and Preschool Health Division; and Director, Children and Youth Project.

Throughout her career in the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health, she has paved the way for acceptance of new ideas and expedited change, making possible planned parenthood educational services in clinics, the addition of social workers to child health teams, expansion of the nurse's role in treating mental retardation, inclusion of nutrition counseling in child health services, a program of family-health center aides, and a team approach to problem solving and management.

Dr. Epps is a native of Little Rock, Ark., and received her B.S. degree from Palmer Memorial Institute in North Carolina and her M.D. from Howard University in Washington, D.C. She holds elected offices and actively works with many professional, civic, and social organizations, including the programs of the Children's International Summer Villages, a worldwide summer exchange camp for 11-year olds. To encourage other young women to enter medicine, she sponsored the Howard University Junior Branch of the American Medical Women's Association. From 1961 to 1963 she was the author of a weekly newspaper column entitled "Your Children's Health."

She is married to Dr. Charles H. Epps, Jr., Chief of the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery of the Howard University College of Medicine, and they have four children: Charles H. III, 16, Kenneth, 14, Roselyn, 11, and Howard, 10.

Brigid Gray Leventhal is Head of the Chemo-immunotherapy Section of the Pediatric Oncology Branch of the National Cancer Institute. She is a recognized authority on acute leukemia, and is responsible for the design of treatment programs that have substantially improved the prognosis of leukemia patients.

Since joining the National Cancer Institute as a postdoctoral fellow in 1964, she has successfully applied a unique combination of talents to this growing field: a thorough understanding of clinical and investigative aspects of childhood leukemia; lengthy experience in the art and science of leukemia management; organizational ability in managing a laboratory, ward, and clinic; and competent laboratory research, both independent and collaborative. In addition, she is cited for her realistic yet compassionate approach to the families of children with leukemia.

Dr. Leventhal has pioneered in the development of immunotherapy at the NIH Clinical Center, and has supervised an active laboratory program in tumor immunology. Her laboratory was among the first to recognize immunologic "rebound" phenomenon following chemotherapy. She has now gathered preliminary evidence that anti-leukemia antibodies can be stimulated by the inoculation of a lymphoblast culture vaccine.

In addition to her efforts in the fields of chemotherapy and immunotherapy, Dr. Leventhal has made numerous contributions in other areas. She has worked extensively on the problem of meningeal leukemia, and she has organized the computerization of clinical data for ease in data retrieval and analysis. Dr. Leventhal recently assumed total responsibility for directing the outpatient clinic, and has participated in the teaching program of the clinic.

Dr. Leventhal, a Phi Beta Kappa, graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles with highest honors and received her M.D. from the Harvard School of Medicine. She is married to Dr. Carl M. Leventhal, M.D., and they have four children: George, 11, Sarah, 9, Dinah, 7, and James, 4.

Gladys P. Rogers is the Special Assistant to the Deputy Under Secretary for Management in the State Department. She has played a highly significant role in effectively organizing and staffing the Department of State to enable the Secretary to carry out his responsibilities.

Early in her career she proposed and developed a program to consolidate and improve the overseas administrative support capability of the Department and other foreign affairs agencies. She also played a decisive role in development of the concept of Country Director, resulting in departmental reorganization of key bureaus.

In 1967 Mrs. Rogers was appointed to the Foreign Service Inspector Corps, which functions as an evaluator of the effectiveness of the Department's operations overseas. The first woman ever appointed to this post, she brought her expertise in management to bear on a wide range of embassies and subordinate posts abroad by constructive recommendations to effect needed improvements.

In 1971 she was appointed to the newly created position of Special Assistant for Women's Affairs. In this capacity she designed a wide-ranging program to improve the status of women in the Department and the Foreign Service. A few of her accomplishments in this job include being instrumental in obtaining several "firsts" in the assignment of women to jobs that were previously closed to them, sparking a program to enhance the prestige and developmental opportunities of secretaries, and designing a sound internal public relations program alerting all women to their rights. She is also given major credit for doubling the number of women in the Foreign Service since 1970, eliminating consideration of a woman's marital status in determining long-term training opportunities, and establishing an annual "Secretary of the Year Award" in the Department of State.

Mrs. Rogers joined the Department of State in 1960 as a senior management analyst, having worked before for the Office of Emergency Management, the United Nations Rehabilitation and Relief Organization, the Foreign Operations Administration, and as a self-employed management consultant.

Mrs. Rogers is a graduate of the University of California. She is married to G. Norman Rogers, a management consultant, and they have three children: William, an attorney, John, a writer, and Sherry, a student.

Madge Skelly, Ph.D., is a speech pathologist who is Chief of the Audiology and Speech Pathology Service of the Veterans Administration Hospital in St. Louis. By her clinic research she has contributed innovative approaches to patient treatment, such as compensatory speech for those whose tongues have been excised, gestural language for the speechless based on American Sign Language, and kinetic communication for the blind patient who is also deaf. She is responsible for initiating the clinic at the St. Louis VA hospital, and has donated time and expertise to assist seven local hospitals in establishing clinics. In addition, she has worked with state, national, and international organizations and agencies with workshops for improving service to the handicapped.

Before entering Government, Dr. Skelly was a nationally known professional actress, director, playwright, and newspaper correspondent, as well as a college teacher. She appeared on the stage in hundreds of featured roles, made two movies, wrote a weekly theater column for a newspaper chain, and served as a foreign correspondent on European theater. She has written 20 full-length plays and written and produced radio serials. She has also been extremely active in the reactivation of old professional opera houses.

In 1957, while operating a professional resident theater company, Dr. Skelly became interested in the problems of people with speech disorders and earned a Ph.D. in education and speech pathology in 1961. Since that time she has held five HEW fellowships in various areas of the field, and has done additional postdoctoral study. She has served since 1964 as Chief of the Audiology and Speech Service at the Veterans Administration Hospital in St. Louis, and has recently been appointed to the faculty of the Medical School of St. Louis University, the first professor in her field in this hospital. Dr. Skelly was the first woman awarded an Upjohn Company fellowship to Europe and one of only six women in the nation holding the rank of Chief, Audiology and Speech Pathology Service, in the Veterans Administration. She is also one of the few women in the VA surgery research program nationally.

In addition to serving on numerous committees in her field and in the theater, she serves as president of the Missouri Speech and Hearing Association, and speaks at numerous professional conventions. She taught previously at the University of Southern Illinois, Fontbonne College, Maryville College, the University of Arizona, and Temple University. In the past seven years, Dr. Skelly has written numerous articles for professional publications and has co-authored two books in her field.

A native of Pittsburgh, Dr. Skelly earned a B.A. degree from Seton Hill College, M.A. from Duquesne University, and Ph.D. from St. Louis University. She has done additional predoctoral study at the University of Arizona and postdoctoral study at the Medical School of the University of Kansas.

JUDGES OF THE FEDERAL WOMAN'S AWARD, 1974

Lindy Boggs, Member of Congress from the Second District of Louisiana.

Dr. Andre E. Hellegers, M.D., Director, The Joseph and Rose Kennedy Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction and Bioethics, Georgetown University.

Wauhilla La Hay, Journalist. Staff Writer for Scripps-Howard Newspapers, Washington Bureau.

Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry and Associate Director of the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley.

Julia Montgomery Walsh, Senior Vice President, Ferris & Company, Inc.

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